Numb. 132

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Habeo Senectuti magnam Gratiam, quæ mihi Sermonis aviditatem auxit, Potionis & Cibi ſuſtulit. Tull. de Sen.

From *Thurſday February* 9. to *Saturday February* 11. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, February 10.

AFTER having applied my Mind with more than ordinary Attention to my Studies, it is my uſual Cuſtom to relax and unbend it in the Converſations of ſuch as are rather eaſy than ſhining Companions. This I find particularly neceſſary for me before I retire to Reſt, in order to draw my Slumbers upon me by Degrees, and fall aſleep inſenſibly. This is the particular Uſe I make of a Set of heavy honeſt Men, with whom I have paſſed many Hours with much Indolence, though not with great Pleaſure. Their Converſation is a Kind of Preparative for Sleep: It takes the Mind down from its Abſtractions, leads it into the familiar Traces of Thought, and lulls it into that State of Tranquility, which is the Condition of a thinking Man when he is but half awake. After this, my Reader will not be ſurpriſed to hear the Account which I am about to give of a Club of my own Contemporaries, among whom I paſs Two or Three Hours every Evening. This I look upon as taking my firſt Nap before I go to Bed. The Truth of it is, I ſhould think my ſelf unjuſt to Poſterity, as well as to the Society at the *Trumpet*, of which I am a Member, did I not in ſome Part of my Writings give an Account of the Perſons among whom I have paſſed almoſt a Sixth Part of my Time for theſe laſt Forty Years. Our Club conſiſted originally of Fifteen; but partly by the Severity of the Law in Arbitrary Times, and partly by the natural Effects of old Age, we are at preſent reduced to a Third Part of that Number: In which however we have this Conſolation, That the beſt Company is ſaid to conſiſt of Five Perſons. I muſt confeſs, beſides the afore-mentioned Benefit which I meet with in the Converſation of this ſelect Society, I am not the leſs pleaſed with the Company, in that I find my ſelf the greateſt Wit among them, and am heard as their Oracle in all Points of Learning and Difficulty.

Sir *Jeoffrey Notch*, who is the oldeſt of the Club, has been in Poſſeſſion of the Right-Hand Chair Time out of Mind, and is the only Man among us that has the Liberty of ſtirring the Fire. This our Foreman is a Gentleman of an ancient Family, that came to a great Eſtate ſome Years before he had Diſcretion, and run it out in Hounds, Horſes, and Cock-fighting: For which Reaſon he looks upon himſelf as an honeſt worthy Gentleman, who has had Misfortunes in the World, and calls every Thriving Man a Pitiful Upſtart.

Major *Matchlock* is the next Senior, who ſerved in the laſt Civil Wars, and has all the Battles by Heart. He does not think any Action in *Europe* worth talking of ſince the Fight of *Marſton-Moor*; and every Night tells us of his having been knocked off his Horſe at the Riſing of the *London* Prentices; for which he is in great Eſteem amongſt us.

Honeſt old *Dick. Reptile* is the Third of our Society: He is a good-natur'd indolent Man, who ſpeaks little himſelf, but laughs at our Jokes, and brings his young Nephew along with him, a Youth of Eighteen Years old, to ſhow him good Company, and give him a Taſt of the World. This young Fellow ſits generally ſilent; but whenever he opens his Mouth, or laughs at any thing that paſſes, he is conſtantly told by his Uncle, after a jocular Manner, Ay, ay, *Jack*, you young Men think us Fools; but we old Men know you are.

The greateſt Wit of our Company, next to my ſelf, is a Bencher of the neighbouring Inn, who in his Youth frequented the Ordinaries about *Charing-Croſs*, and pretends to have been intimate with *Jack Ogle*. He has about Ten Diſtichs of *Hudibras* without Book, and never leaves the Club till he has applied them all. If any Modern Wit be mention'd, or any Town Frolick ſpoken of, he ſhakes his Head at the Dulneſs of the preſent Age, and tells us a Story of *Jack Ogle*.

For my own Part, I am eſteemed among them becauſe they ſee I am ſomething reſpected by others; though at the ſame Time I underſtand by their Behaviour, that I am conſidered by them as a Man of a great deal of Learning, but no Knowledge of the World; inſomuch that the Major ſometimes, in the Height of his Military Pride, calls me the Philoſopher: And Sir *Jeoffrey*, no longer ago than laſt Night, upon a Diſpute what Day of the Month it was then in *Holland*, pull'd his Pipe out of his Mouth, and cry'd, What does the Scholar ſay to it?

Our Club meets preciſely at Six a Clock in the Evening; but I did not come laſt Night till Half an Hour after Seven, by which Means I eſcaped the Battle of *Naſeby*, which the Major uſually begins at about Three Quarters after Six. I found alſo that my good Friend, the Bencher, had already ſpent Three of his Diſtichs, and only waiting an Opportunity to hear a Sermon ſpoken of, that he might introduce the Couplet, where *a-Stick* rhimes to *Eccleſiaſtick*. At my Entrance into the Room, they were naming a red Petticoat and a Cloak, by which I found that the Bencher had been diverting them with a Story of *Jack Ogle*.

I had no ſooner taken my Seat, but Sir *Jeoffrey*, to ſhow his good Will towards me, gave me a Pipe of his own Tobacco, and ſtirred up the Fire. I look upon it as a Point of Morality to be obliged by thoſe who endeavour to oblige me; and therefore

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in Requital for his Kindneſs, and to ſet the Converſation a going, I took the beſt Occaſion I could to put him upon telling us the Story of Old *Gauntlet*, which he always does with very particular Concern. He traced up his Deſcent on both Sides for ſeveral Generations, deſcribing his Diet and Manner of Life, with his ſeveral Battles, and particularly that in which he fell. This *Gauntlet* was a Game Cock, upon whoſe Head the Knight in his Youth had won Five hundred Pounds, and loſt Two Thouſand. This naturally ſet the Major upon the Account of *Edge-Hill* Fight, and ended in a Duel of *Jack Ogle*.

Old *Reptile* was extremely attentive to all that was ſaid, tho' it was the ſame he had heard every Night for theſe Twenty Years; and upon all Occaſions, winked upon his Nephew to mind what paſſed.

This may ſuffice to give the World a Taſt of our innocent Converſation, which we ſpun out till about Ten of the Clock, when my Maid came with a Lanthorn to light me Home. I could not but reflect with my ſelf as I was going out upon the Talkative Humour of old Men, and the little Figure which that Part of Life makes in one who cannot employ this natural Propenſity in Diſcourſes which would make him venerable. I muſt own, it makes me very melancholy in Company when I hear a young Man begin a Story; and have often obſerved, that one of a Quarter of an Hour long in a Man of Five and Twenty, gathers Circumſtances every Time he tells it, till it grows into a long *Canterbury* Tale of Two Hours by that Time he is Threeſcore.

The only Way of avoiding ſuch a trifling and frivolous old Age, is to lay up, in our Way to it, ſuch Stores of Knowledge and Obſervation, as may make us uſeful and agreeable in our declining Years. The Mind of Man in a long Life will become a Magazine of Wiſdom or Folly, and will conſequently diſcharge it ſelf in ſomething impertinent or improving. For which Reaſon, as there is nothing more ridiculous than an old Trifling Story-Teller, ſo there is nothing more venerable than one who has turned his Experience to the Entertainment and Advantage of Mankind.

In ſhort, we who are in the laſt Stage of Life, and are apt to indulge our ſelves in Talk, ought to conſider, if what we ſpeak be worth being heard, and endeavour to make our Diſcourſe like that of *Neſtor*, which *Homer* compares to the Flowing of Honey for its Sweetneſs.

I am afraid I ſhall be thought guilty of this Exceſs I am ſpeaking of, when I cannot conclude without obſerving, that *Milton* certainly thought of this Paſſage in *Homer*, when in his Deſcription of an Eloquent Spirit, he ſays, *His Tongue dropped Manna.*

Advertiſements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall.

Men's Morning Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c: (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-Houſe, againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs: The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.

A Houſe to be let over-againſt the New-Exchange in the Strand, for a long Leaſe, as it now is, next Houſe but one to the Corner of Half-Moon-ſtreet. Enquire of Mr. Smith an Apothecary over-againſt Salisbury-ſtreet in the Strand, or at Mr. Smith's a Braſier in the Pall-mall.

IN this Month of February, will begin to be publiſh'd, in Tueſday's, Thurſday's, and Saturday's Poſt-Boy, the Price Courant of raw Coffee, as ſold in Quantity, and in a good and merchandable Condition; with Notice by whom it will be ſold, at the ſaid Rate Courant. Note, Every 12 d. in raw Coffee, will be 16 d. when roaſted.

AT Foxhall, next above Mr. Plume's, is a very good ſtrong Brick Houſe, Four Rooms on a Floor, with Waſh-Houſe and Brew-Houſe; a Stable for Two Horſes, and Coach-Houſe (if required) with very good Gardens and Orchard, planted with the beſt of Fruit Trees, with or without Three Quarters of an Acre of Land, next the River of Thames. Enquire of the Perſon above, and you may know further.

A Black Indian Boy, 12 Years of Age, fit to wait on a Gentleman, to be diſpoſed of at Denis's Coffee-houſe in Finch-Lane near the Royal Exchange.

*** Appendix Librorum ſub Stephanorum nominibus Impreſſorum, may be had Gratis, on large or ſmall Paper, by all Gentlemen, &c. (who have Hiſtoria de Vitis Stephanorum) of Chr. Bateman at the Bible and Crown in Pater-noſter-Row. N. B. 'Tis preſumed this will not be PIRATED, for the Benefit of the Poor.

In a Month will be publiſh'd,

*** The Compleat Hiſtory of Europe, from 1600 to this Time, in 14 Vol. viz. all the laſt Century in 5 Vol. containing all the publick and ſecret Tranſactions therein; the Characters of the Great Men, as done by my Lord Clarendon; as alſo of the ſame Perſons done by Sir P. Warwick, Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Ruſhworth, &c. and of thoſe abroad written by Nani Puffendorf, &c. the Hiſtory of Europe for 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, and 1709; in all 14 Vol. Printed for H. Rhodes by Fleet-Bridge, J. Nicholſon in Little-Britain, and A. Bell at the Croſs-Keys, Cornhil. Note, there are not above 100 compleat Sets of the above Vol. (and thoſe for 1702, 1703, and 1704, are reprinted to make ſo many.) So all Gentlemen, Bookſellers in the Country, &c. that intend to have compleat Sets, are deſired to order them by the Firſt of March next, when the Hiſtory of Europe for 1709 will be publiſhed, that they may come together.

Next Week will be publiſh'd,

*** Twenty four Sermons preached on ſeveral Occaſions. By Richard Lucas, D. D. Vicar of St. Stephen's, Coleman-ſtreet, and Prebendary of Weſtminſter. The 2d Edition. In Two Vol. Octavo. Printed for Benj. Walford and William Innys at the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** Bibliotheca Wichiana; being a Catalogue of the Library of the late Hon. Sir Cyrill Wich: Conſiſting of the moſt valuable Authors in moſt Arts, Sciences, and Languages; with a curious Collection of Civil, Canon, and Common Law; Books of Medals, Sculpture and Painting. Printed from his Original Catalogue, and digeſted under proper Heads. Will begin to be ſold by Auction on Monday the 20th Inſtant, in the Inner lower Walk of Exeter-Change in the Strand, from 5 to 9 every Evening. By Edm. Curll, Bookſeller, at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet ſtreet: Where Catalogues are ſold at 6 d. each; likewiſe by J. Harding in St. Martin's-Lane, W. Taylor in Pater-Noſter-Row, N. Cliff the lower End of Cheapſide, R. Halſey in Cornhil, and R. Smith at his Warehouſe, the Place of Sale. N. B. In this Collection are more ſcarce Books than has appear'd in any Catalogue for many Years.

*** A Devout Chriſtian's Preparative to Death. Written by Eraſmus: Now rendered into Engliſh To which are added, Meditations, Prayers and Directions, for Sick and Dying Perſons. By Robert Warren, M. A. Rector of Charlton in Kent. Recommended as proper to be given at Funerals. The Third Edition. Printed for E. Parker at the Bible and Crown in Lombard-ſtreet near Stocks-Market. Price bound 6 d. or Two Guineas per Hundred to thoſe who give them away.

AN Account of Dividends paid to all the new Married, by the Charitable Society of ſingle Perſons, at London-Stone; where, by paying 6 d. Entrance, and 2 s. per Quarter, they gain 150 per Cent. clear and certain, and ſtand fair to get from 40 l. to 400 l. And now by double Tickets, may alſo pay 4 s. per Quarter, and gain double ſo much, and have all the Advantages of the firſt Quarter; as per 13th and 14th Article of the Propoſals, given gratis at the Perpetual Office. And the ſaid Account, with all the Proceedings and Advantages of the ſaid Office, are ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers hall, and other Bookſellers. Price 1 d. The Entry's now in the 7th C. and favourably recommended by many Divines here to thoſe in the Country, and to all who delight to do good. Carriers can do the Buſineſs, with the Direction given them at the Office at London-ſtone.

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FOR making expeditiouſly the blackeſt and moſt laſting Writing Ink; being a Tincture from Minerals, Marchaſites, with other ponderous Ingredients, far exceeding any diſſolving Powder now publiſh'd under Pretence of a Patent. Each Sixpenny Paper contains 3 Ounces, ſealed up with Directions; 8 Papers make a Gallon; 4 more, with the former Sediment, will make another Gallon as good as the firſt; and thus in Proportion for a greater or leſs Quantity, is much cheaper than hitherto known. It is alſo fit for Carriage by Sea and Land, as now prepared in Powder by Auſtin Oldiſworth, Stationer, at the Golden-Ball in Cannon-ſtreet. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and the Stationers, Bookſellers and Haberdaſhers, in London, and other Cities and chief Towns in Great Britain and Ireland.